

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00050 252015Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 065409

P R 251939Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 646

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS BELFAST 050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: NI CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR SDLP

REF: DAWKINS-WINGER TELECON, APRIL 24, 1974

SUMMARY: ON BASIS OF RESULTS OF JUNE 1973 ASSEMBLY ELECTION, FEBRUARY 1974 BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION, AND APRIL 1974 PUBLIC OPINION POLL, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY APPEARS TO HAVE SUPPORT OF NOT LESS THAN TWO THIRDS OF CATHOLIC VOTE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. END SUMMARY

1. CATHOLIC VOTE CANNOT BE DETERMINED PRECISELY BUT IS ESTIMATED AT ONE THIRD OF TOTAL ELECTORATE. CENTRIST PARTIES OBTAIN VOTES IN INDETERMINABLE PROPORTIONS FROM BOTH CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS. SDLP AND OTHER PARTIES HARBORING ULTIMATE ANTI-PARTITIONISTS, REPUBLICAN ASPIRATIONS ALL ATTEMPT TO APPEAL TO PROTESTANTS, BUT WITH APPARENTLY NEGLIGIBLE SUCCESS THUS FAR.

2. IN JUNE 1973 NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTION SDLP GOT 159,773 FIRST PREFERENCE VOTES, 22.1 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL VALID VOTE. CENTRIST PARTIES -- ALLIANCE, NI LABOUR, AND LIBERAL -- GOT 86,027 OR 11.9 PER CENT. REPUBLICAN CLUBS,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00050 252015Z

NATIONALISTS, AND REPUBLICAN LABOUR TOGETHER OBTAINED 23,084

OR 3.2 PER CENT. PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN CALLED FOR ABSTENTION OR BALLOT-SPOILING, BUT NUMBER WHO OBEYED THEM CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM TOTAL OF ABSTENTIONS OR OF BALLOT-SPOILING IN THIS SECOND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ELECTION IN LIFETIME OF MOST NI VOTERS.

3. IN FEBRUARY 1974 BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION, SDLP OBTAINED 160,437 VOTES, 22.3 PER CENT OF VALID VOTES. CENTRISTS (ALLIANCE, NORTHERN IRELAND LABOUR, AND INDEPENDENTS) GOT 41,106 OR 5.7 PER CENT. VARIOUS REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES RECEIVED 55,079 OR 7.7 PER CENT AN INCREASE OVER 1973 REFLECTING ABSENCE OF A PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN BOYCOTT AND PRESENCE OF THREE CANDIDATES SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS, AND CANDIDATES OF TWO INCUMBENT REPUBLICANS, BERNADETTE DEVLIN MCALISKEY AND FRANK MCMANUS.

4. THE APRIL 1974 BBC PUBLIC OPINION POLL RESULTS INDICATED THAT NORTHERN IRELAND CATHOLICS OVERWHELMINGLY AGREE WITH SDLP (AND CENTRIST PARTIES) ON ISSUES ON WHICH THEY DIFFER FROM THEIR REPUBLICAN RIVALS. CATHOLIC RESPONDENTS DISAPPROVED OF USE OF VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL ENDS, 96 PER CENT TO 2 PER CENT, AGREED THAT THE PRESENT ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO GOVERN, 90-4 AND FOUND "PERSONALLY ACCEPTABLE" CONTINUATION OF POWER-SHARING AS PRACTISED BY THE EXECUTIVE, 88-5.HYDLE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELFAS00050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740098-0359
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740416/aaaaanjq.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAWKINS-WINGER TELECON, APRIL 24, 19, 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NI CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR SDLP
TAGS: PINT, UK, (NI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005